

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05820 302256Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 ACDA-12 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----061452 011412Z /40

R 291536Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9948
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 05820

ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR MILI SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINE REQUEST FOR LOCKHEED L-100
TRANSPORTS

REFS: A) STATE 246415 (NOTAL), B) DAMASCUS 5508,
C) DAMASCUS 5939, D) DAMASCUS 233

1. STIPULATIONS ON LICENSE APPROVAL (PARA 2 REF A) MAY
CAUSE US TROUBLE UNLESS CERTAIN INFORMATION GETS ON THE
RECORD. THERE ARE NUMEROUS SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA)
EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN SECONDED FROM SYRIAN AIR FORCE
(SAF). THIS IS NORMAL PROCEDURE WHEREBY SAF REWARDS
PARTICULARLY COMPETENT PERSONNEL BY TWO-THREE YEAR TOUR
IN HIGHER-PAYING SAA JOBS WHILE SAA BENEFITS FROM
AVAILABILITY SKILLED EMPLOYEES TO MAKE UP FOR DRAIN OF
ITS BEST TECHNICIANS TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. FURTHER, IN
RECENT SHAKEUP SAA MANAGEMENT (REF C) SEVERAL KEY DIRECTORS
WERE REPLACED BY SAF PERSONNEL. PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN
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L-100 CASE IS THAT SAA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR IS COL. WALID
SHA'ABAN, ON LWOP FROM SAF FOR THREE YEAR TOUR (AND NORTH-
WESTERN U. GRADUATE). NONETHELESS, THIS IS A LEGITIMATE
AND LONG-TERM SAA PRACTICE AND CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUM-
STANCES BE CONSIDERED A SUBTERFUGE CONNECTED WITH THE
L-100 TRANSACTION.

2. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SAA BONAFIDES:

- (A) ELECTRONICS: LOCKHEED REP STATES SAA HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT ELECTRONICS IN L-100'S BE IDENTICAL TO THOSE SUPPLIED IN BOEING 727 ALREADY IN INVENTORY; AND
- (B) FINANCING: REF D SHOULD RESOLVE ANY ISSUE AS TO WHETHER SAA IN FACT CAPABLE OF FINANCING L-100 PURCHASE FROM OWN RESOURCES: AIRLINE REMAINS HIGHLY LIQUID.

3. NOTE REF A SENT BEIRUT BUT NOT ROME. RCAA IN ROME SHOULD BE ON DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL THESE MESSAGES.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ARABS, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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